

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 3 0 1997

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

## CERTIFIED MAIL #P334884736 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

E-Z Serve Convenience Stores, Inc., a Delaware Corporation Prentice Hall Corporation Systems, Inc., Agent for Service of Process 203 Carondelet St., Suite 811 New Orleans, LA 70130

Re: File No. AED/MSEB - 4739

## NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Dear Sirs/Madams:

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On July 17, 1997, inspectors of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency inspected the retail outlet known as E-Z Serve #2097 located at 12325 River Road, Luling, Louisiana (hereinafter "E-Z Serve #2097") to determine compliance with section 211 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7545, and the regulations issued thereunder (40 C.F.R. Part 80). Section 80.27 of the regulations prohibits the selling, offering for sale, dispensing, supplying, offering for supply, transporting, or introducing into commerce of gasoline whose Reid vapor pressure (RVP) exceeds 7.80 pounds per square inch (psi) during the month of July in the area where E-Z Serve #2097 is located.

The investigation of E-Z Serve #2097 disclosed that on or about July 17, 1997, E-Z Serve Convenience Stores, Inc., a Delaware corporation, sold, offered for sale, dispensed, supplied, offered for supply, transported or introduced into commerce gasoline whose Reid vapor pressure exceeded 7.80 psi. This constitutes an apparent violation of 40 C.F.R. § 80.27. As a retailer, E-Z Serve Convenience Stores, Inc., a Delaware corporation, is liable for the violation of 40 C.F.R. § 80.27 pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 80.28. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposes a penalty of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for this apparent violation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency encourages settlement of such matters rather than initiating formal adjudicatory proceedings or litigation in the federal courts. The settlement process provides substantial flexibility for reducing the statutory penalty, particularly if the alleged violations are corrected promptly. If we cannot settle this matter within 90 days, our normal procedure is to prepare cases like this for formal administrative adjudication or referral to the United States Department of Justice with a recommendation to file a civil complaint in federal district court. If we are unable to agree to terms within this timeframe, the settlement terms acceptable to the Environmental Protection Agency will increase as additional government resources are committed to prosecution of this case.

The attorney designated below has been assigned to this case. Please contact her regarding this Notice of Violation.

Marcia S. Ginley, Senior Attorney/Advisor U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Western Field Office 12345 W. Alameda Parkway Suite 214
Denver, CO 80228 (303) 969-6476

If you wish to pursue settlement of this matter we will make every effort to reach an equitable settlement satisfactory to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and you.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce C. Buckbeit
Bruce C. Buckheit, Director

Air Enforcement Division

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance